# COMPARING TEXAS HMOS



# 2018-2019 Edition

Prepared by the



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# **Section 1**

**Background** 

#### **About the Report**

The Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC) is an independent state agency established by the Texas Legislature to represent the interests of consumers in insurance matters. In 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature directed OPIC to issue annual reports comparing Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in Texas. Comparing Texas HMOs 2018-2019 reflects the experience of Texans enrolled in HMOs during 2017 by presenting the results of the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, Version 5.0H (CAHPS® 5.0H), by company.

#### **About HMOs**

HMOs are managed care plans that provide healthcare services to members through networks of doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare providers. As an HMO member, you must select a primary care physician who oversees your medical care and refers you to specialists. HMOs require members to pay a set copayment for covered services within the network. The table on page 7 provides more information on HMOs and compares HMOs to other types of health plans.

#### **How to Use the Report**

When you select an HMO, you are not only choosing health plan benefits, but also the network of doctors, hospitals, and other providers who deliver your care as well as the administrators who review and approve recommended care. While information on service area, benefits, cost, and available providers can be obtained from the HMOs, it can be difficult for consumers to find out how other Texans reviewed their HMOs. Comparing Texas HMOs 2018-2019 provides this consumer satisfaction data to help you objectively compare the different HMOs in Texas.

#### **Choosing an HMO**

When you choose an HMO, you will want to compare similar plans with similar coverages. This section lists a few points of comparison to consider. You can use the table on page 50 to take notes on the HMOs you are considering.

#### Service-Area Availability

HMOs cover specific service areas. Review the HMOs' membership information to find one with a service area close to where you live or work.

#### **Benefits**

Individuals use different services based on medical conditions, age, and family needs. Review HMO benefit information for coverage of medications or services that you use. You may need to contact the plans to get your questions answered.

#### **Provider Availability**

Some consumers find it important to receive care from specific doctors or hospitals. Review provider directories for information on network providers.

#### Affordability

Your total healthcare costs will include your premiums as well as other out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. To compare affordability, estimate your annual healthcare needs and calculate the total out-of-pocket cost you would pay with each HMO.

#### **Consumer Satisfaction**

The survey data in this report provides an aggregate look at consumer satisfaction for members currently enrolled in HMOs. Review the information in this report to find out how people rated the quality of the HMOs that you are considering.

### Your Rights as a Consumer

An HMO must provide you with certain information. This includes:

- covered services
- exclusions and limitations
- prior authorization requirements
- continuity of treatment
- approved prescription drugs
- complaint resolution
- · the HMO's toll-free telephone number

You have the right to certain consumer protections under federal and state law. Visit our website, www.opic.texas.gov, for more information.

### **Health Plan Types**

	<b>Network</b> Is the network open or closed?	<b>Limits</b> Are there limits on choice of doctors, hospitals, or specialists?	Payments How do the plans and consumers share costs?	Balances Is the consumer responsible for remaining balances?	Incentives Is there an incentive to use network providers?	
Health Maintenace Organization (HMO)	Closed - consumers must use network doctors, hospitals, and specialists except in limited circumstances, such as emergencies.	Typically require consumers to choose a primary care physician (PCP) from the HMO's network. With some exceptions, consumers must obtain a referral from the PCP before seeing other doctors in the network.	Consumers pay designated copays for covered services when using the HMO network. Some HMOs require consumers to meet a deductible before paying for services. Consumers don't usually pay coinsurance.	A network provider cannot bill a consumer for any remaining balance after the consumer meets their copay.	Out-of-network services are not covered in a closed network.	
HMO with Point-of- Service (HMO/POS)	Open - consumers may use in-network providers or out-of- network doctors, hospitals, and specialists.	Typically require consumers to choose a PCP and obtain a referral from the PCP before seeing other doctors in the network.	Consumers pay designated copays for covered services when using the HMO network. Some HMOs require consumers to meet a deductible before paying for services.	Consumers are responsible for any remaining balance when using out-of-network providers.	Typically reimburse a higher percentage of the cost when using in-network providers.	
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)	Open - consumers may use in-network providers or out-of- network doctors, hospitals, and specialists.	Many PPOs permit consumers to see any network doctor without a referral. Some PPOs require consumers to choose a PCP and obtain a referral from the PCP before seeing other doctors in the network.	Consumers typically pay a copay for covered services when using the PPO network. Consumers must also pay a percentage of the total cost of the service.	Consumers are responsible for any remaining balance when using out-of-network providers.	Typically reimburse a higher percentage of the cost when using in-network providers.	
Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO)	Closed - consumers must use network doctors, hospitals, and specialists except in limited circumstances, such as emergencies.	Some EPOs permit consumers to see any network doctor without a referral.	Consumers must pay copays or coinsurance for covered services when using the EPO network. Many EPO plans require consumers to meet a deductible before paying for services.	Consumers pay the entire cost of out-of-network services.	Out-of-network services are not covered in a closed network.	

## **Section 2**

### Survey Results by Company

#### **Results Reported**

An HMO may be exempt from participation in the survey due to low enrollment or limited participation in the Texas commercial HMO market during 2017.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) requires 100 responses to report survey results. OPIC has opted to report data based on 30 or more responses to provide consumers with greater access to data to compare HMOs.

#### **How to Read Survey Results**

percentage who answered 6 or lower

percentage who answered 7 or 8

percentage who answered 9 or 10

#### How people rated their health plan

Respondents were asked to rate their health plan on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the worst health plan possible and 10 being the best health plan possible.

#### How people rated their health care

Respondents were asked to rate their health care on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the worst health care possible and 10 being the best health care possible.

#### How people rated their personal doctor

Respondents were asked to rate their personal doctor on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the worst personal doctor possible and 10 being the best personal doctor possible.

#### How people rated their specialist

Respondents were asked to rate their medical specialist on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the worst specialist possible and 10 being the best specialist possible.

percentage who answered sometimes or never

percentage who answered usually

percentage who answered always

#### **Getting needed care**

Respondents were asked how often it was easy for them to get appointments with specialists or to get the care, tests, or treatment they needed through their health plan.

#### **Getting care quickly**

Respondents were asked how often they received care quickly when they needed care right away, or how often they had an appointment scheduled quickly when they did not need care right away.

#### How well doctors communicate

Respondents were asked how often their personal doctor explained things in a way that was easy for them to understand, listened to them carefully, showed respect for what they had to say, or spent enough time with them.

#### Handling of claims quickly and correctly

Respondents were asked how often their health plan handled claims quickly and correctly.

#### Health plan customer service

Respondents were asked how often they received the information or help they needed from their health plan's customer service, and how often their health plan's customer service staff treated them with courtesy and respect.

#### Plan information on costs

Respondents were asked how often they were able to find out from their plan how much they would have to pay for health care services, equipment, or prescription medicines.

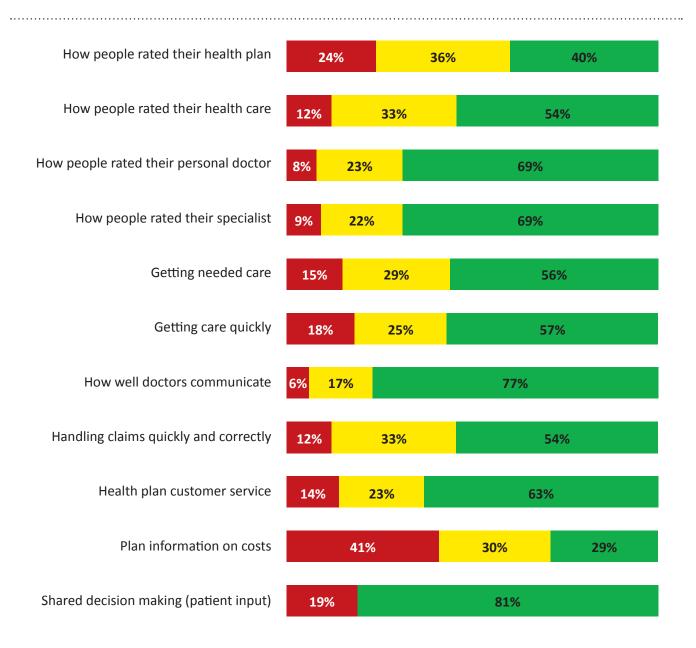
percentage who answered no

percentage who answered yes

#### Shared decision making (patient input)

Respondents were asked whether a doctor or other health provider discussed the reasons for taking or not taking a medicine before starting or stopping that medicine, and whether the patient was asked what they thought was best.

### **State Average**



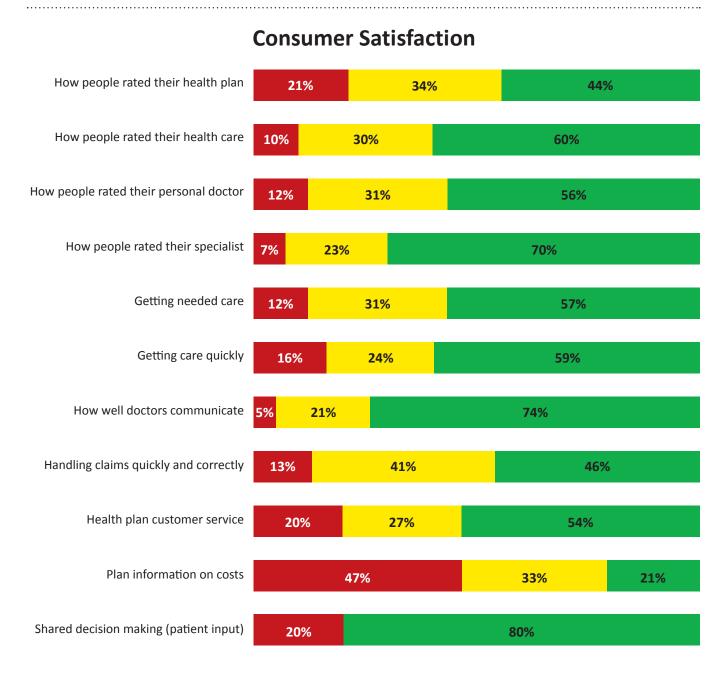
#### Aetna Health, Inc. (Austin)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 872-3862 | www.aetna.com

Enrollment: 8,120

Consumer Response Rate: 12.1%





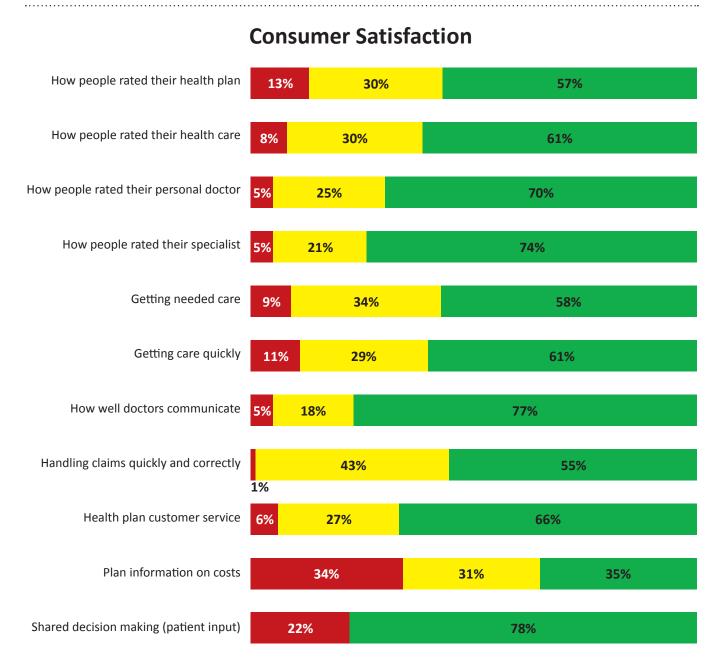
### Aetna Health, Inc. (Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 872-3862 | www.aetna.com

Enrollment: 9,774

Consumer Response Rate: 15%





### Aetna Health, Inc. (Houston)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 872-3862 | www.aetna.com

Enrollment: 18,981

Consumer Response Rate: 9.4%



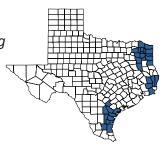
#### **Consumer Satisfaction** How people rated their health plan 22% 30% 48% How people rated their health care 16% 32% **52%** How people rated their personal doctor 12% 26% **63**% How people rated their specialist 5% 34% 61% Getting needed care 14% **31% 55%** Getting care quickly 28% 20% 53% How well doctors communicate 20% 70% Handling claims quickly and correctly 18% 26% 56% Health plan customer service 11% 29% 60% Plan information on costs **31%** 45% 24% Shared decision making (patient input) 16% 84%

#### **CHRISTUS Health Plan**

Customer Service Contact: (844) 282-3025 | www.christushealthplan.org

Enrollment: 10,050

Consumer Response Rate: 61.5%



#### **Consumer Satisfaction** How people rated their health plan 4% **17% 79%** How people rated their health care 7% 23% 70% How people rated their personal doctor 7% **17% 76**% How people rated their specialist 13% 83% Getting needed care 8% 27% **65%** Getting care quickly 23% 68% How well doctors communicate 21% 74% Handling claims quickly and correctly 26% 9% 64% Health plan customer service 7% 17% 76% Plan information on costs 29% 23% **47**% Shared decision making (patient input) 23% 77%

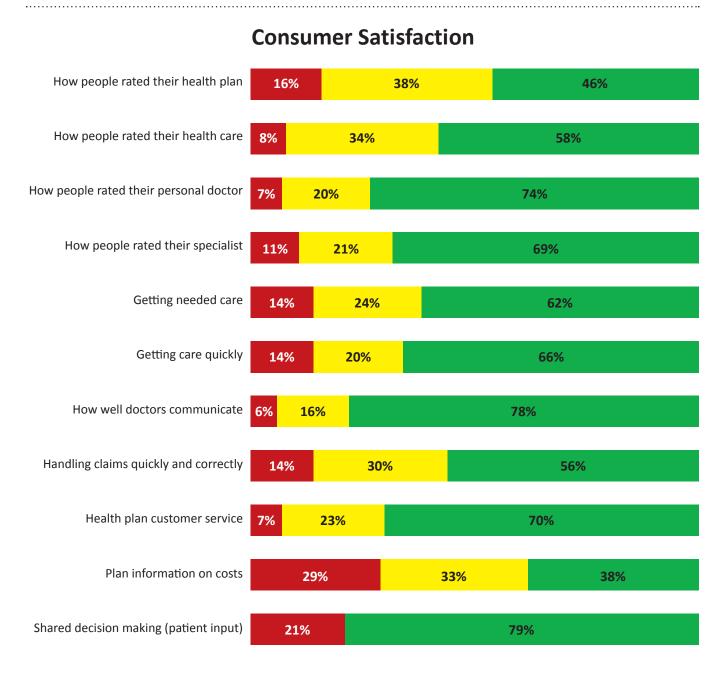
### Cigna HealthCare of Texas, Inc. (Dallas/Houston)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 244-6224 | www.cigna.com

Enrollment: 79,360

Consumer Response Rate: 16%





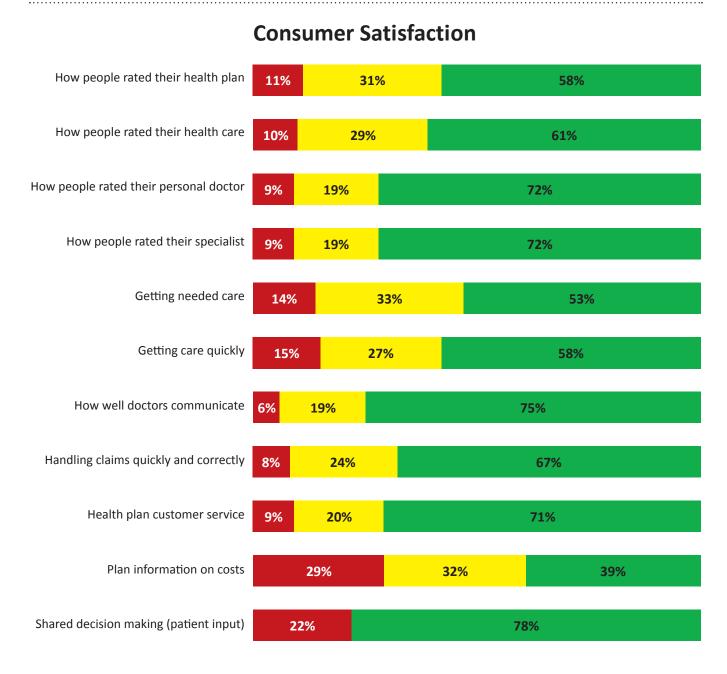
### **Community First Health Plan (San Antonio)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 434-2347 | www.cfhp.com

Enrollment: 4,509

Consumer Response Rate: 20.3%





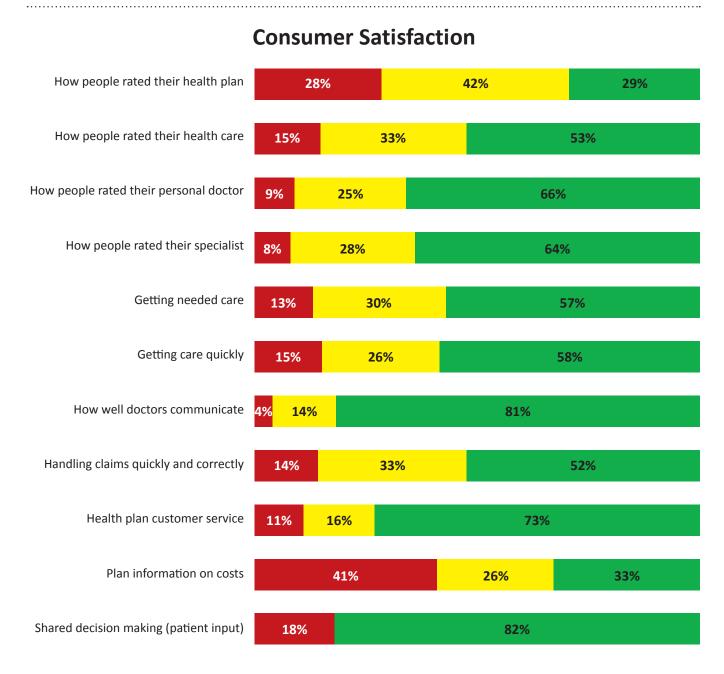
### FIRSTCARE (Abilene)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 884-4901 | www.firstcare.com

Enrollment: 10,773

Consumer Response Rate: 25.3%





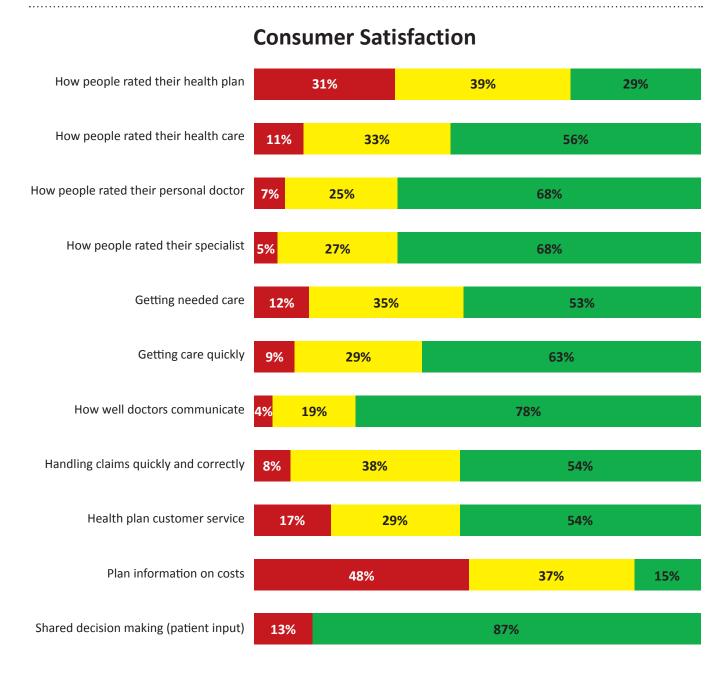
### **FIRSTCARE (Amarillo)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 884-4901 | www.firstcare.com

Enrollment: 9,064

Consumer Response Rate: 25.3%





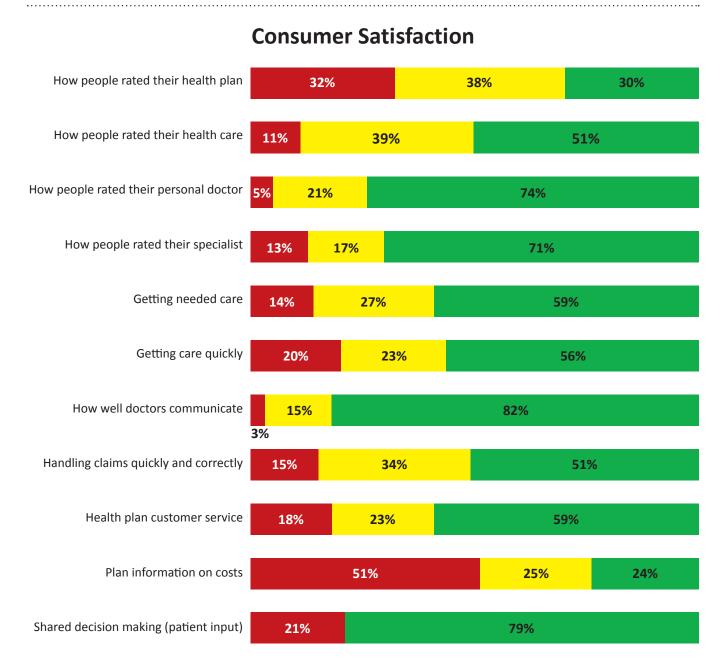
### FIRSTCARE (Lubbock)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 884-4901 | www.firstcare.com

Enrollment: 25,149

Consumer Response Rate: 20.7%





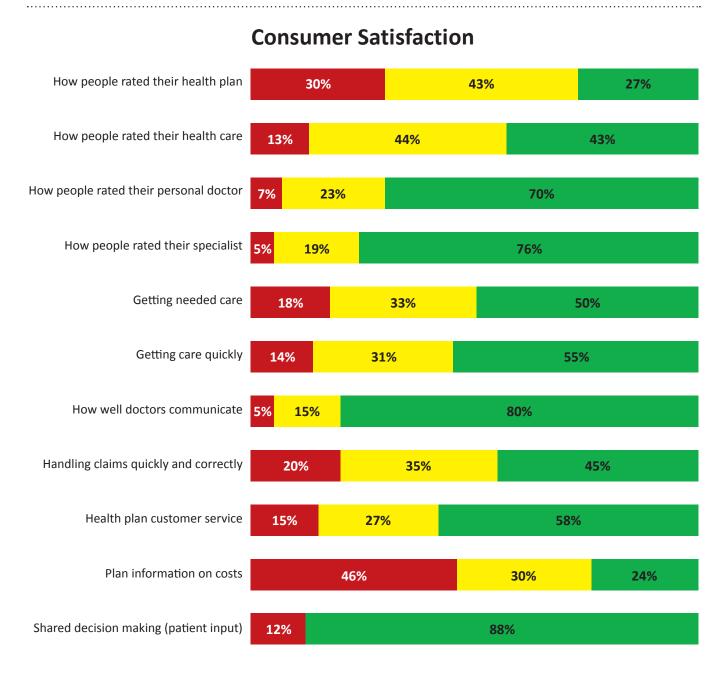
### FIRSTCARE (Waco)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 884-4901 | www.firstcare.com

Enrollment: 3,984

Consumer Response Rate: 18.8%





### **HMO Blue Texas (Dallas/Ft. Worth)**

Customer Service Contact: (877) 299-2377 | www.bcbstx.com

Enrollment: 492,433 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 8.8%



#### **Consumer Satisfaction** How people rated their health plan 36% 30% 33% How people rated their health care 12% 32% 56% How people rated their personal doctor **70**% 6% 24% How people rated their specialist 24% 8% 68% Getting needed care 27% 15% 58% Getting care quickly 27% 17% 56% How well doctors communicate 20% 76% Handling claims quickly and correctly **31%** 63% Health plan customer service 6% 24% **71%** Plan information on costs 27% 43% 31% Shared decision making (patient input) 20% 80%

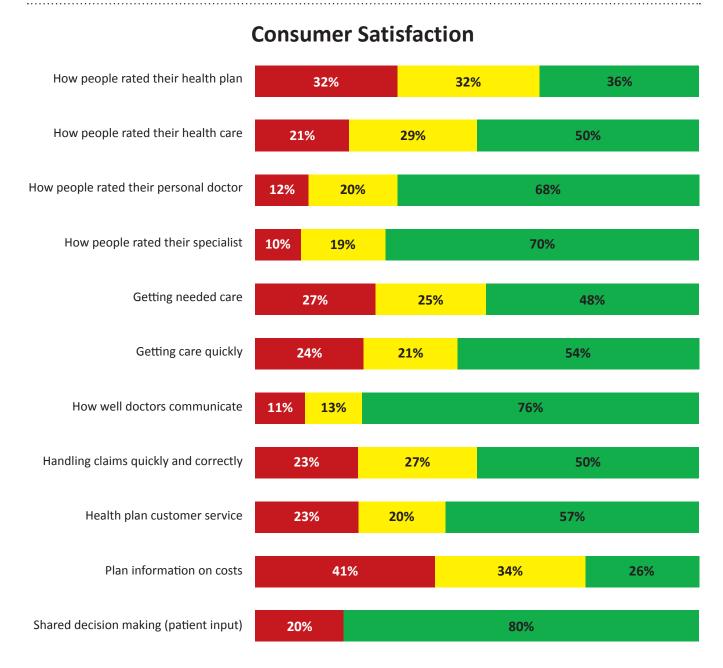
### **HMO Blue Texas (East/South/West Texas)**

Customer Service Contact: (877) 299-2377 | www.bcbstx.com

Enrollment: 492,433 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 13.2%





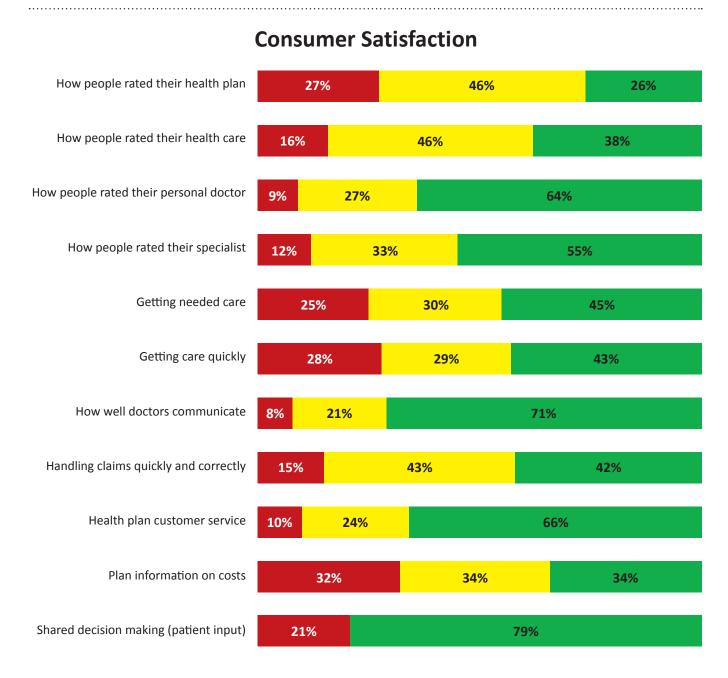
#### **HMO Blue Texas (Houston)**

Customer Service Contact: (877) 299-2377 | www.bcbstx.com

Enrollment: 492,433 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 9.7%





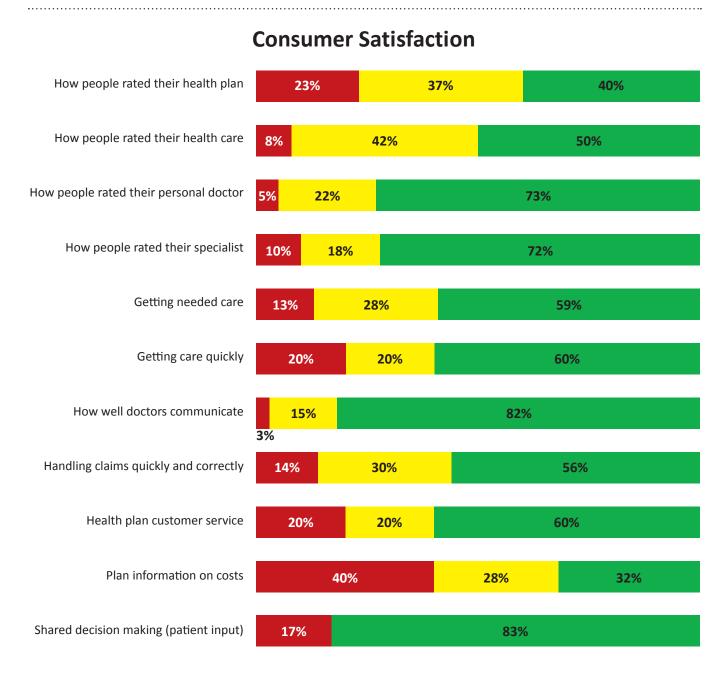
### **Humana Health Plan of Texas (Austin)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 448-6262 | www.humana.com

Enrollment: 189,525 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 13.2%





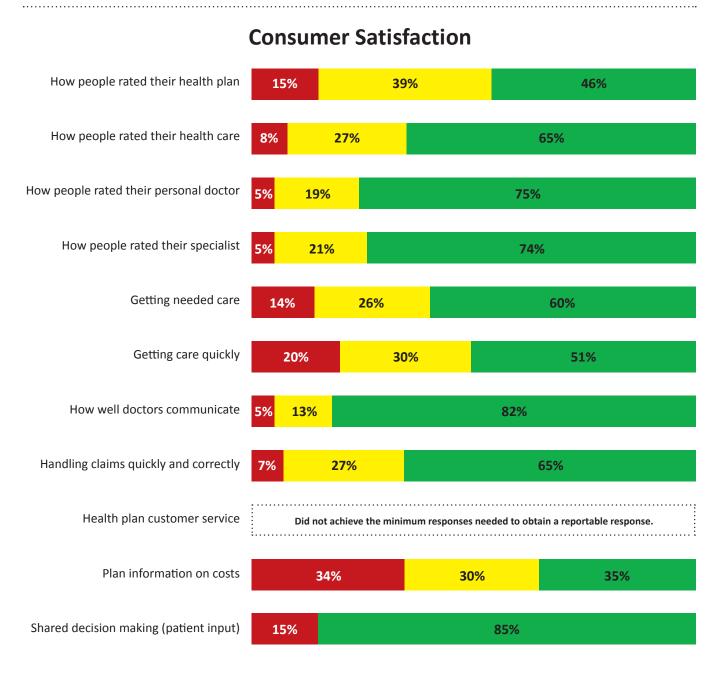
#### Humana Health Plan of Texas (Corpus Christi/Rio Grande)

Customer Service Contact: (800) 448-6262 | www.humana.com

Enrollment: 189,525 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 14.8%





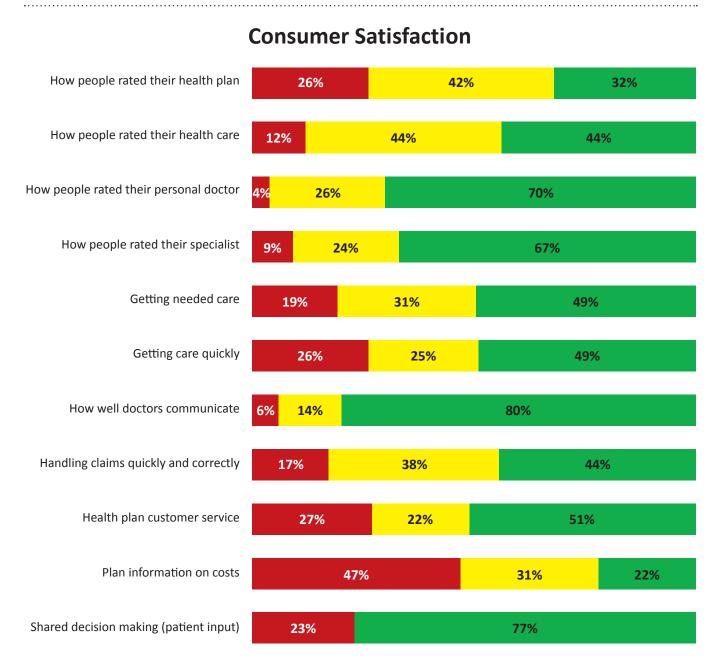
### **Humana Health Plan of Texas (Houston)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 448-6262 | www.humana.com

Enrollment: 189,525 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 12.8%





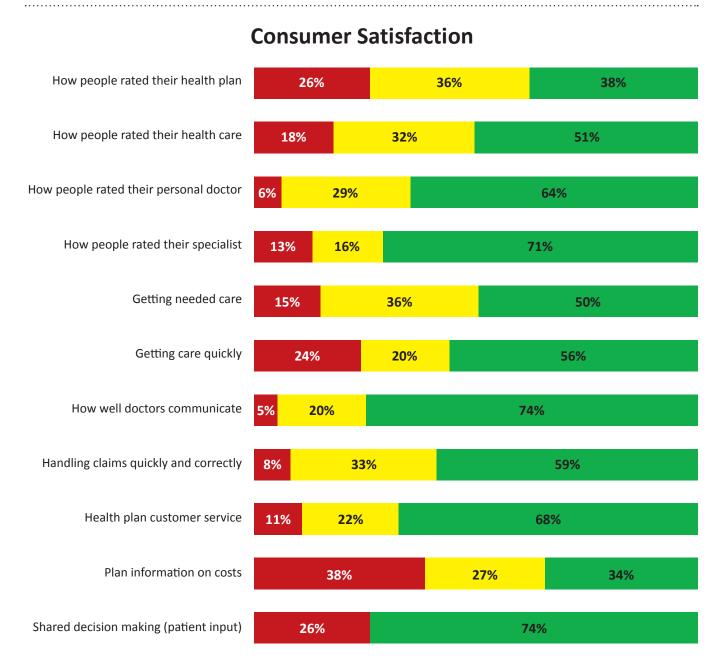
### **Humana Health Plan of Texas (San Antonio)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 448-6262 | www.humana.com

Enrollment: 189,525 (total enrollment)

Consumer Response Rate: 14.4%





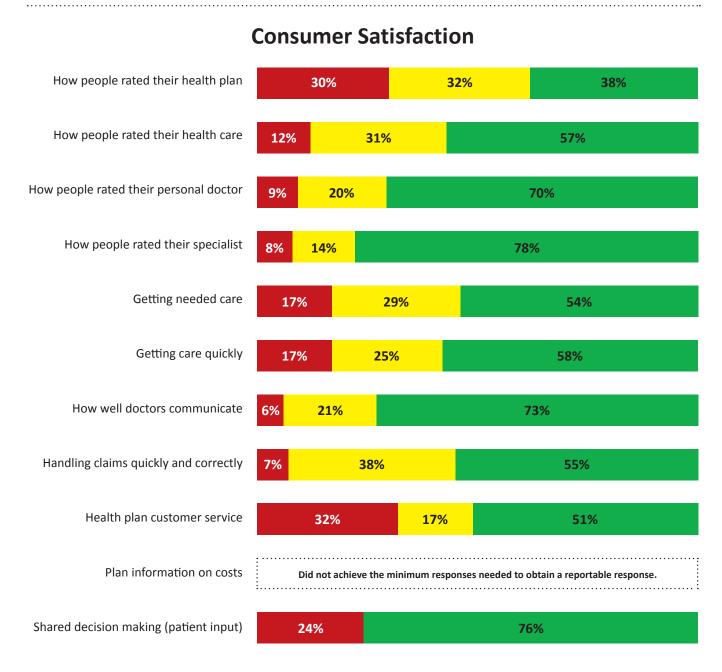
#### Memorial Hermann Health Plan, Inc. (Consolidated)

Customer Service Contact: (855) 645-8448 | www.healthplan.memorialhermann.org

Enrollment: 15,085

Consumer Response Rate: 6.4%





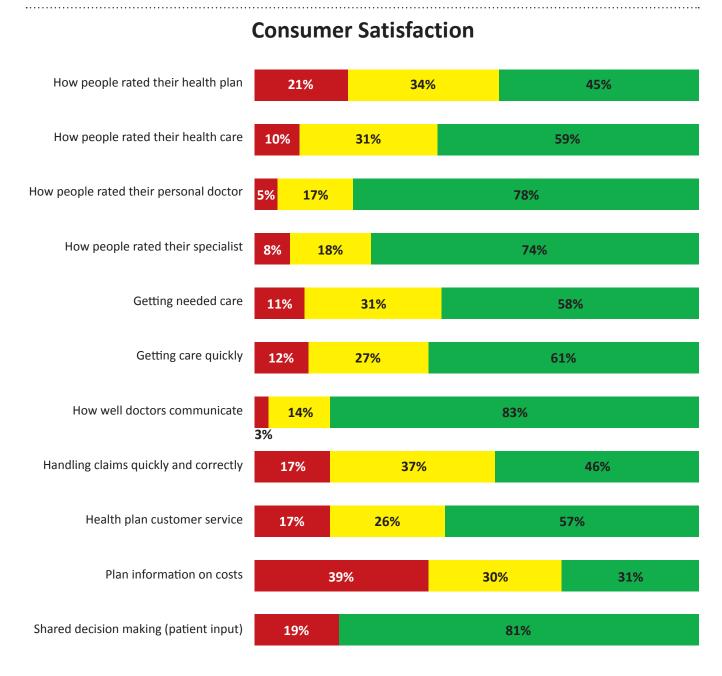
### **Scott and White Health Plan (Central Texas)**

Customer Service Contact: (800) 321-7947 | www.swhp.org

Enrollment: 80,623

Consumer Response Rate: 22.6%





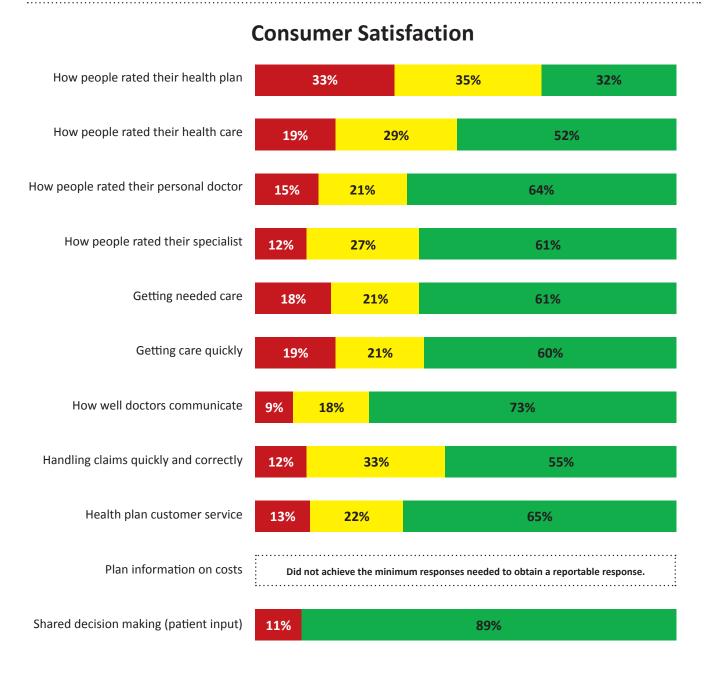
### United Healthcare of Texas, Inc. (Austin/San Antonio)

Customer Service Contact: (866) 414-1959 | www.uhc.com

Enrollment: 10,888

Consumer Response Rate: 11%





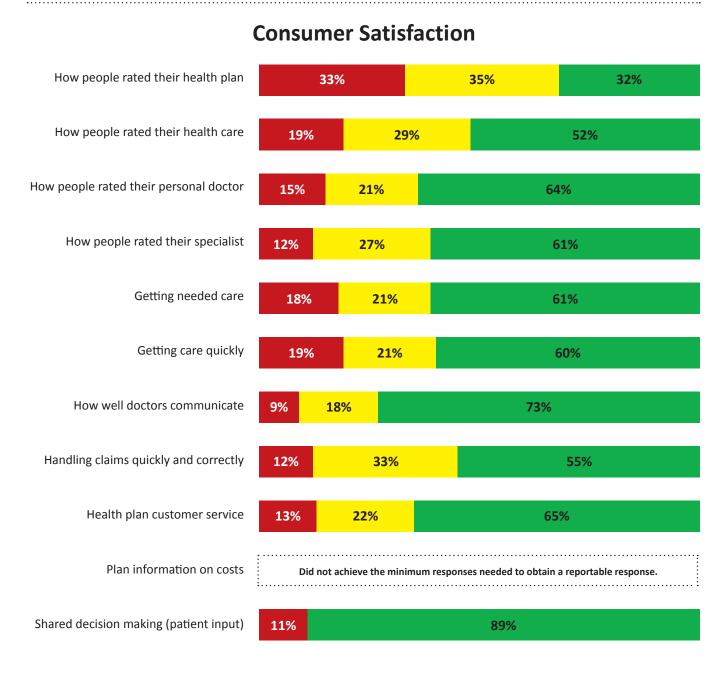
### United Healthcare of Texas, Inc. (Houston)

Customer Service Contact: (866) 414-1959 | www.uhc.com

Enrollment: 6,100

Consumer Response Rate: 11%

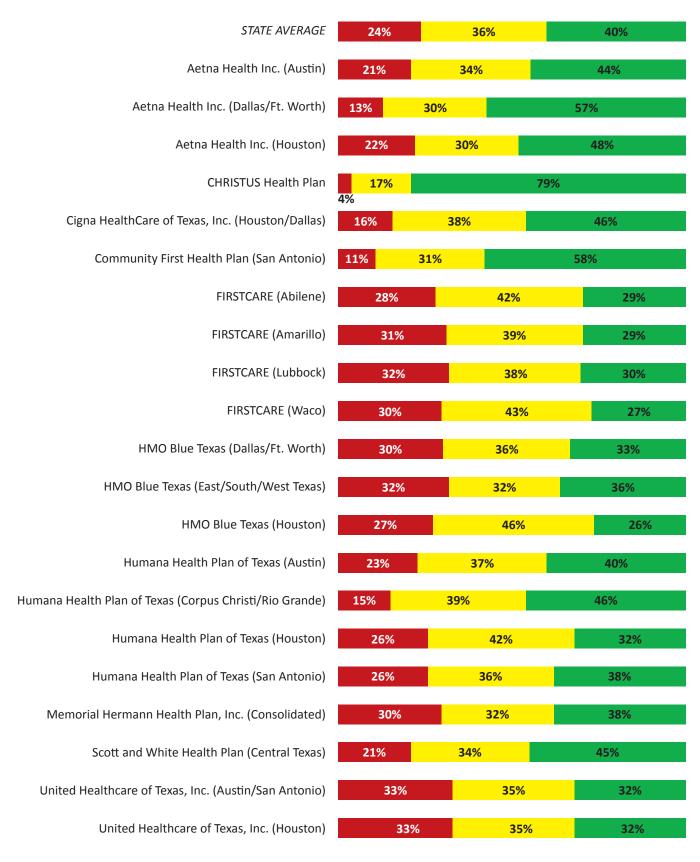




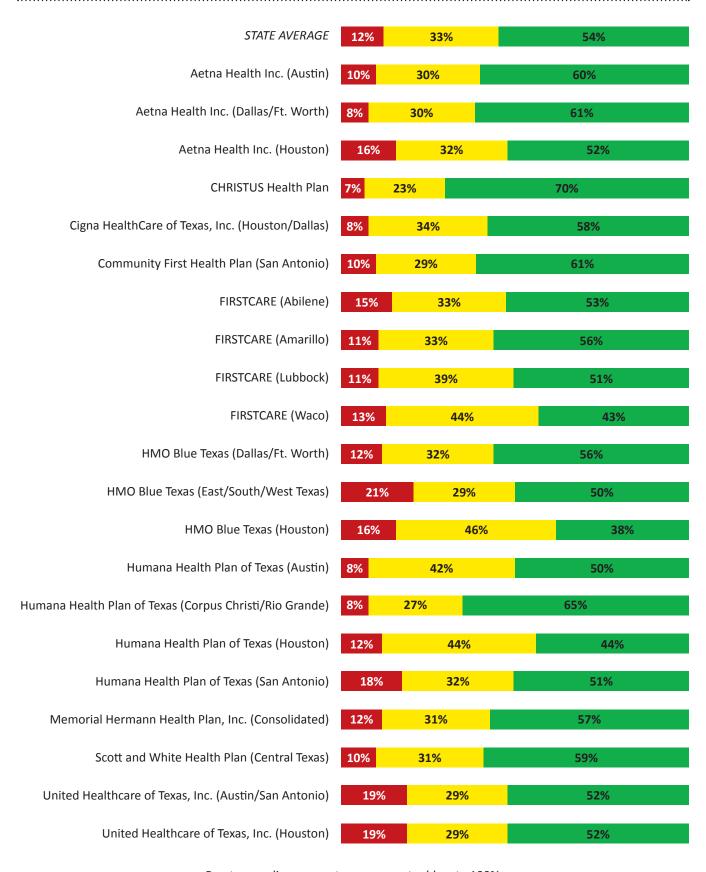
# **Section 3**

Survey Results by Category

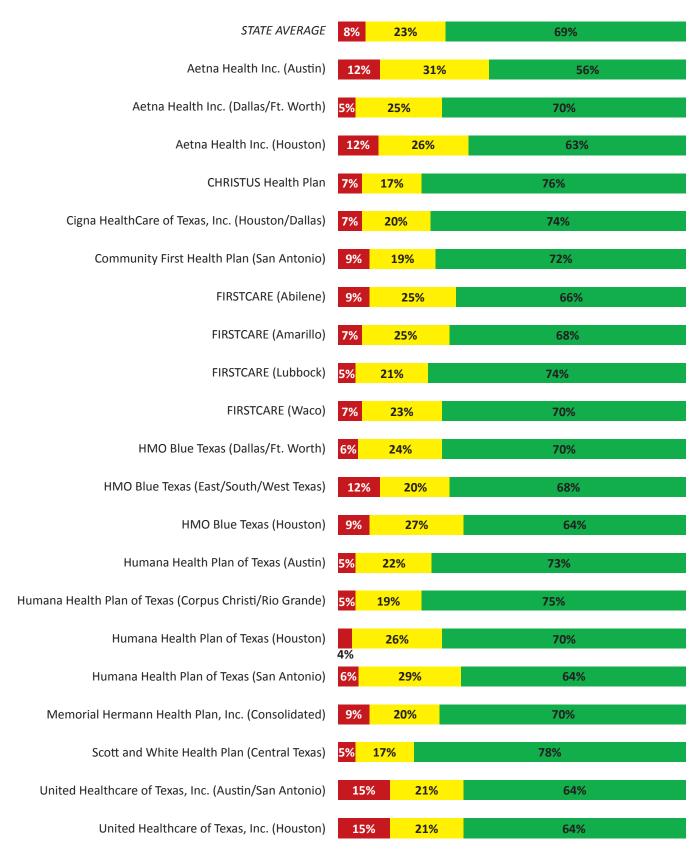
### **How People Rated Their Health Plan**



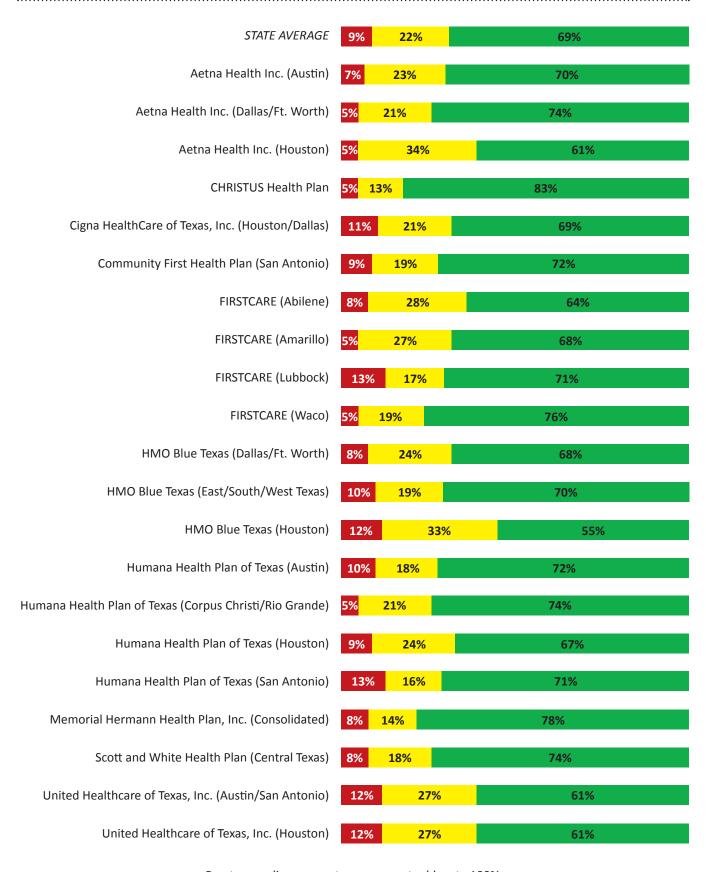
#### **How People Rated Their Health Care**



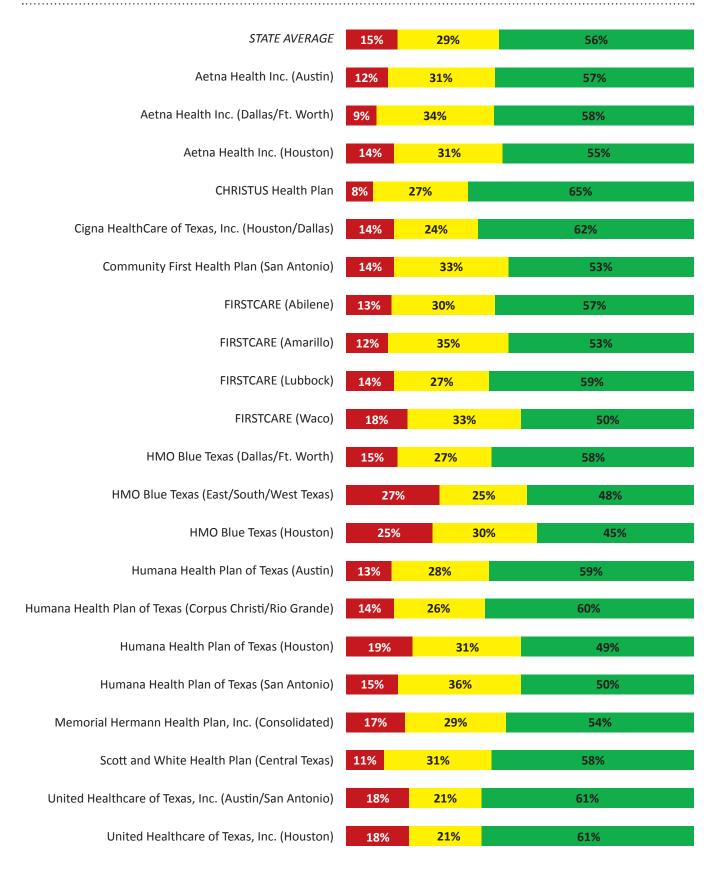
#### **How People Rated Their Doctor**



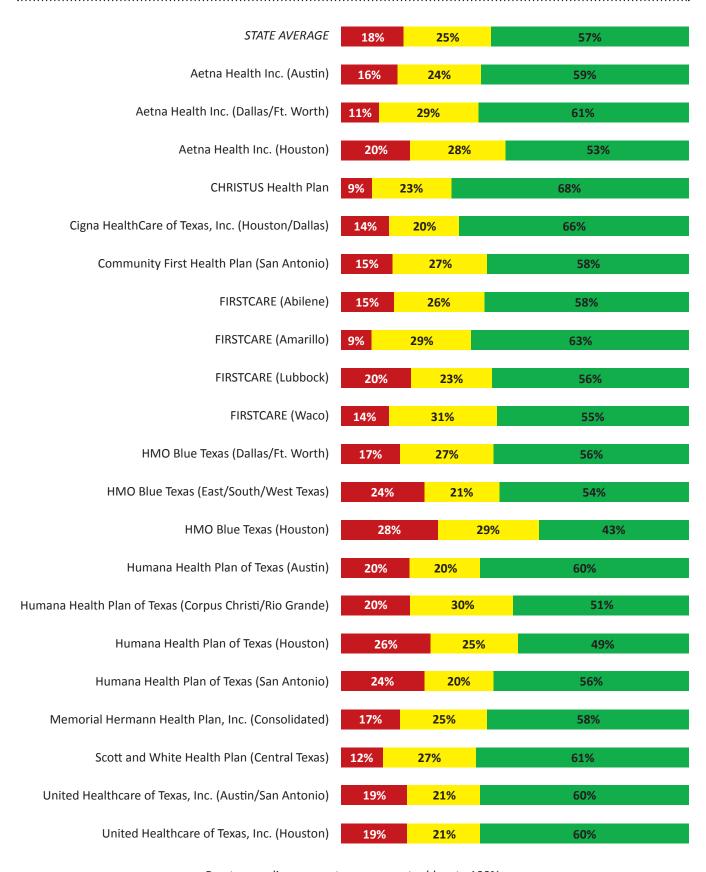
## **How People Rated Their Specialist**



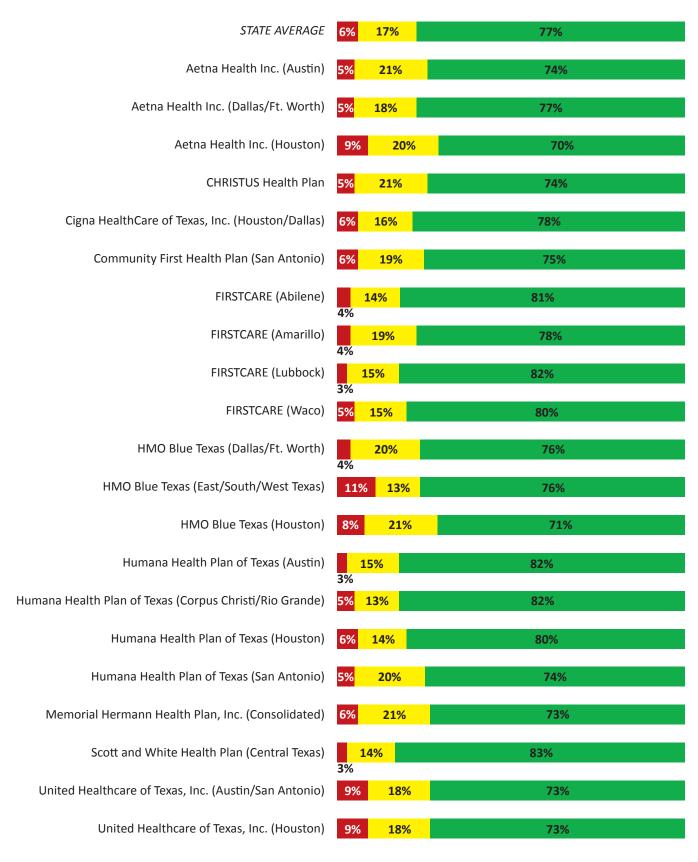
## **Getting Needed Care**



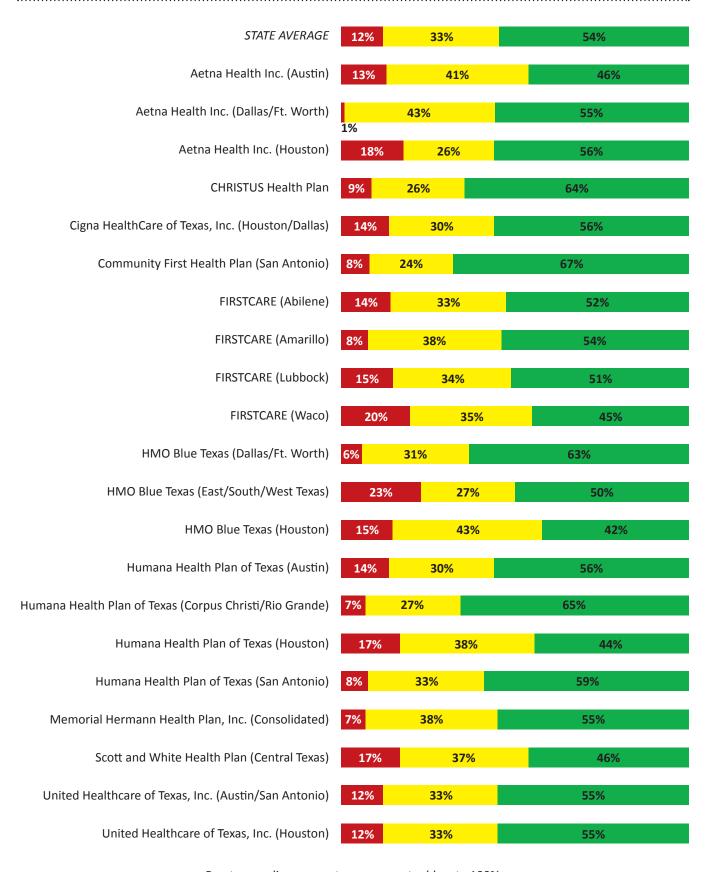
## **Getting Care Quickly**



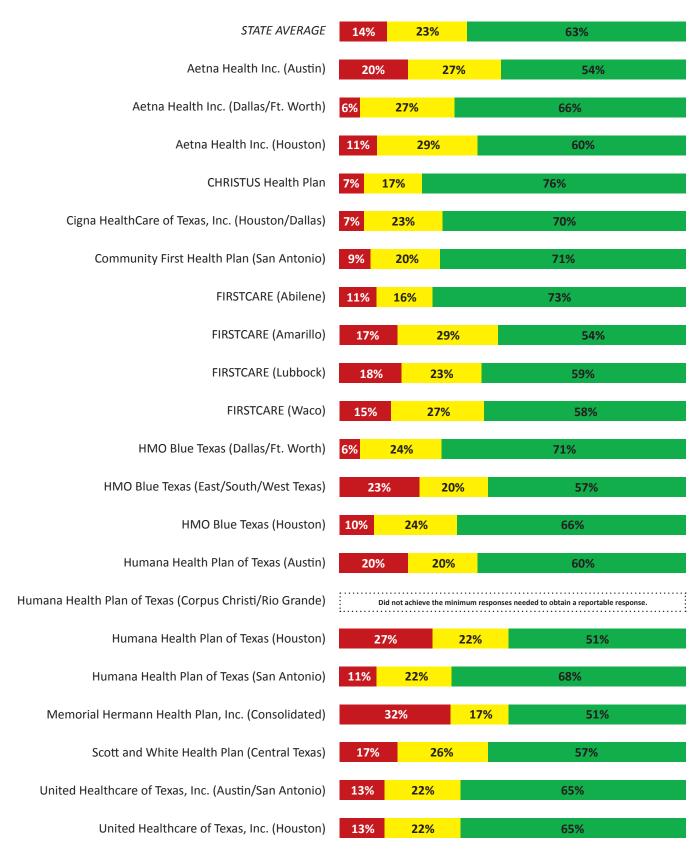
## **How Well Doctors Communicate**



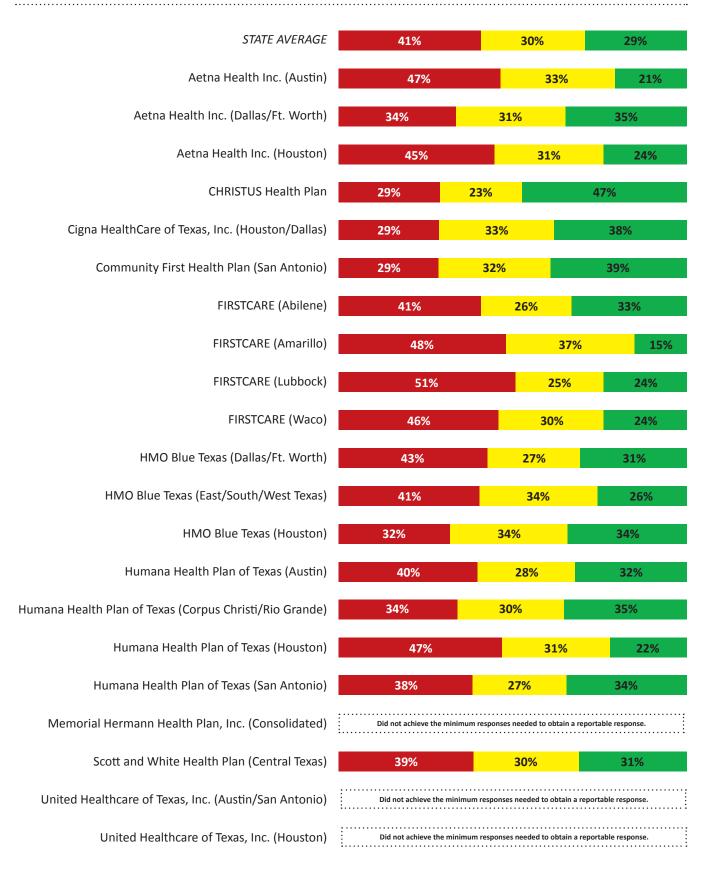
## **Handling Claims Quickly and Correctly**



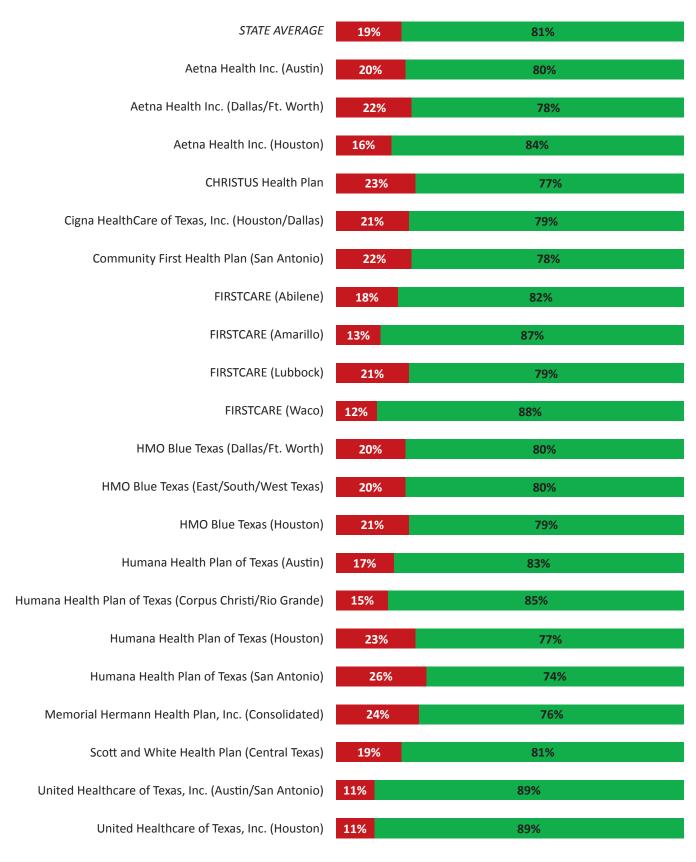
## **Health Plan Customer Service**



## **Plan Information Costs**



## **Shared Decision Making (Patient Input)**



## **Section 4**

**Additional Information** 



## **About the Survey**

#### Who performed the survey?

The CAHPS® 5.0H survey is performed by independent survey vendors certified by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), a not-for-profit organization committed to assessing, reporting on, and improving the quality of healthcare. The survey comprises the consumer satisfaction measure for the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®). Texas law requires HMOs to submit HEDIS® measures, including consumer satisfaction data, to the Department of State Health Services.

#### Who was surveyed?

The survey was sent to approximately 26,422 adult plan members across the State of Texas. Overall, 5,607 enrollees responded: 3,311 completed the survey by mail, 1,864 by phone, and 432 online. Only members who were enrolled continuously in an HMO from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, were eligible to complete the survey. Each survey result section contains the consumer response rate by plan.

#### How was the survey performed?

The survey vendors administered the survey primarily by mail with a telephone follow-up of those who did not respond to the mailed questionnaire. Participants answered questions about their satisfaction with the healthcare services they received in the previous 12 months. The survey was voluntary and confidential.

HMO members were asked questions about their experiences with their health plans and medical care such as:

- Were your claims handled quickly and correctly?
- Were you able to get the care you needed?
- Could you get appointments quickly?
- Could you get the information you needed from your health plan?

## **HMO Market Share Data**

This table reports HMO enrollment and market share information for the first quarter of 2018. The data on the left side of the chart indicate total enrollment for basic service HMOs. The data on the right side provide enrollment information for basic service HMOs with commercial enrollment.

НМО	Total Ending Enrollment	Total Market Share	Commercial Ending Enrollment	Commercial Market Share
Aetna Health, Inc.	56,160	0.9%	20,563	1.6%
CHRISTUS Health Plan	27,595	0.5%	26,282	2.1%
Cigna Healthcare of Texas, Inc.	9,007	0.2%	9,007	0.7%
Community First Health Plans, Inc.	139,298	2.3%	4,502	0.4%
Community Health Choice, Inc.	128,614	2.1%	128,614	10.1%
Health Care Service Corp. (HMO Blue Texas)	494,981	8.3%	453,607	35.5%
Humana Health Plan of Texas, Inc.	172,788	2.9%	172,788	13.5%
Memorial Hermann Health Plan, Inc.	14,650	0.2%	10,411	0.8%
Molina Healthcare of Texas, Inc.	451,462	7.5%	245,549	19.2%
Prominence HealthFirst of Texas	1,472	0.0%	22	0.0%
Scott & White Health Plan	151,276	2.5%	76,725	6.0%
Sendero Health Plans, Inc.	45,393	0.8%	26,556	2.1%
SHA, L.L.C. (FIRSTCARE)	168,535	2.8%	75,747	5.9%
UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc.	242,533	4.0%	6	0.0%
Unitedhealthcare of Texas, Inc.	27,160	0.5%	27,160	2.1%
UTMB Health Plans, Inc.	215	0.0%	215	0.0%
All other HMOs (including Medicare & Medicaid)	3,864,405	64.5%	0	0.0%
TOTAL BASIC SERVICE	5,995,544	100.0%	1,277,754	100.0%

Source: Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) HMO Financial Report First Quarter 2018

## **HMO Plans Available Through the Federal Marketplace**

As of the date of publication, the following companies are selling HMO plans through the federal marketplace:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (Health Care Service Corp.)
- CHRISTUS Health Plan
- Community Health Choice, Inc.
- FIRSTCARE (SHA L.L.C.)
- Molina Healthcare of Texas, Inc.
- Sendero Health Plans, Inc.

Please note that not all companies may sell plans in your area.

You may purchase a plan through the federal marketplace at www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325).

#### **State Resources**

#### Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC)

William P. Hobby Building 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-120 Austin, TX 78701 (877) 611-6742 | www.opic.texas.gov

OPIC is an independent state agency established by the Texas Legislature to represent the interests of Texas consumers in insurance matters. OPIC represents Texas consumers in regulatory matters related to rates, rules, and policy forms. OPIC also engages in consumer outreach and education.

## Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

P.O. Box 149104 Austin, TX 78714-9104 (800) 252-3439 | www.tdi.texas.gov

TDI regulates HMOs in the state, including complaints, appeals, quality of care, and financial stability. TDI has information about HMOs and health insurance in general, both in printed form and on the website.

## Texas Health Options www.texashealthoptions.com

Texas Health Options is a website administered by TDI that serves as a resource for understanding how to find and use health insurance in Texas.

#### CHIP & Children's Medicaid

P.O. Box 149024 Austin, TX 78714-9024 (877) 543-7669 | www.chipmedicaid.org

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission offers two health insurance programs for children: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Children's Medicaid. Applications, eligibility information, and other related information can be obtained in printed form and on the website.

#### Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

4900 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78751-2316 (800) 252-8263 or 2-1-1 | www.hhs.texas.gov

HHSC has oversight responsibilities for designated HHSC agencies, and administers certain health and human services programs including the Texas Medicaid Program and CHIP.

## Texas Health and Human Services Commission Office of the Ombudsman

P. O. Box 13247 Austin, TX 78711-3247 (877) 787-8999 | www.hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/ your-rights/hhs-office-ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman assists consumers when the agency's normal complaint process cannot, or does not, satisfactorily resolve the individual's concerns. The Ombudsman supports inquiries and complaints about programs and services related to HHSC, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), and Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

#### Texas Health and Human Services Commission Medicaid Managed Care Helpline (MMCH)

P. O. Box 13247 Austin, TX 78711-3247 (866) 566-8989 | www.hhs.texas.gov/abouthhs/your-rights/hhs-office-ombudsman/hhsombudsman-managed-care-help

MMCH assists Medicaid clients who are experiencing barriers to health and long-term care services through their Texas Medicaid managed care programs: STAR, STAR+PLUS, or PCCM.

#### **State Resources**

#### **Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS)**

P. O. Box 13207 Austin, TX 78711-3207 (877) 275-4377 | *www.ers.texas.gov* 

ERS administers health, retirement, and other benefits for state agency and higher education employees whose employers participate in the Texas Uniform Group Insurance Program.

#### **Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)**

1000 Red River Street Austin, TX 78701-2698 (800) 223-8778 | www.trs.texas.gov

TRS administers health insurance and provides retirement and related benefits for active and retired employees of public schools, colleges, and universities supported by the state. TRS is the state's largest public retirement system.

#### **Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC)**

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Center for Health Statistics, Mail Code 1898
P. O. Box 149347 Austin, TX 78714-9347
(512) 776-7261 | www.dshs.texas.qov/thcic

THCIC collects data from hospitals and HMOs about quality of care and makes the information available to the public.

# Health Information, Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

(800) 252-9240 | www.hhs.texas.gov/services/ health/medicare

HICAP is a partnership of the Texas Health and Human Services system, Texas Legal Services Center, and the Area Agencies on Aging. The program provides information on health insurance and public benefits to individuals age 65 and older and individuals with disabilities.

#### **Federal Resources**

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Region VI

1301 Young Street, Suite 714 Dallas, TX 75202 (214) 767-6427 | **www.cms.qov** 

CMS oversees Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Insurance Program (CHIP), HIPPA, and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Program.

# United States Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) Dallas Regional Office

525 South Griffin Street, Room 900 Dallas, TX 75202-5025

(972) 850-4500 | www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa

EBSA administers and enforces provisions of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). EBSA publishes numerous documents and guides to provide workers with information regarding their benefit rights.

## United States Office of Personnel Management Federal Employees Health Benefit Program

San Antonio Service Center 8610 Broadway, Room 305 San Antonio, TX 78217 (210) 805-2423 | www.opm.gov

The Office of Personnel Management publishes the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Handbook, an annual guide on health benefit plans for federal civilian employees. The handbook compares and rates HMOs, fee-forservice, and managed care health plans available for federal workers.

#### HealthCare.gov

Healthcare.gov is the health insurance marketplace portal for Texas. The site allows consumers to compare and purchase health coverage. Consumers can also find information on their rights.

## **Customer Service Resources**

Aetna Health, Inc.	(800) 872-3862	www.aetna.com
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (HMO Blue Texas)	(877) 299-2377	www.bcbstx.com
CHRISTUS Health Plan	(844) 282-3025	www.christushealthplan.org
Cigna Healthcare of Texas, Inc.	(800) 244-6224	www.cigna.com
Community First Health Plans, Inc.	(800) 434-2347	www.cfhp.com
Humana Health Plan of Texas, Inc.	(800) 448-6262	www.humana.com
Memorial Hermann Health Plan, Inc.	(855) 645-8448	healthplan.memorialhermann.org
Scott and White Health Plan	(800) 321-7947	www.swhp.org
SHA, L.L.C. (FIRSTCARE)	(800) 884-4901	www.firstcare.com
United HealthCare of Texas	(866) 414-1959	www.uhc.com

# Choosing an HMO

Consumer Satisfaction			
Provider Availability			
Affordability			
Benefits			
Service Area Availability			
НМО			

Office of Public Insurance Counsel

Comparing Texas HMOs 2018-2019

Please send questions or comments to:

Office of Public Insurance Counsel William P. Hobby Building 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-120 Austin, Texas 78701-3942

**512-322-4143** or toll free at **1-877-611-6742** *help@opic.texas.gov* 

www.opic.texas.gov